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or at least to the complete subordination of the other properties." This extract from the introductory chapter strikes the keynote to the method of treatment of the subject. It is without doubt, and we have the word of a competent physiological expert for it, the most compact, clear and advanced text book of physiology in the language. The style is simple, clear and concise, and the preface is written in a happy vein with a dry humor that is unexpected but not the less telling and forcible. The book is designed chiefly for medical students, who have already mastered Huxley's Elementary Lessons in Physiology. We think the book would have been improved by the addition of more illustrations than there are; not perhaps of machinery, but giving the results of important physiological experiments. The chapters on the Fundamental Properties of Nervous Tissues, and the Brain, are particularly good.

SEMPER'S EYES OF THE VERTEBRATE TYPE ON THE BACK OF SNAILS.¹—This work gives the results of Professor Semper's extensive and brilliant researches on the small organs of sight, or eye-specks, scattered over the back of a shellless snail (*Onchidium*) of which he has examined nineteen species, some of them living in the Philippine islands. In the author's opinion these eye-specks have almost all the elements of the vertebrate eye. These eyes are different in structure from the tentacular eyes of the *Onchidium* and other land snails, as the nerve arising from them are not thrown off from the cerebral ganglion, but from the visceral nerve-centre. Prof. Semper describes the arrangement, size and number of the dorsal eyes, with their structure, and gives remarks on their developmental history; a comparison of the dorsal eyes of *Onchidium* with those of other animals, discusses the biological considerations resulting from these facts, and in the closing remarks of a theoretical nature, discourses on the primitive origin of dorsal eyes, and on the "Monophyletic or polyphyletic advance in the formation of the simplest dorsal eyes." We can bear witness to the beauty of the microscopic sections, having glanced at some of them through the kindness of Professor Semper during his visit in the United States last autumn. The plates are colored lithographs, and are effectively and skillfully drawn.

ZIRKEL'S MICROSCOPICAL PETROGRAPHY.²—This subject has in the hands of Zirkel, Boricky and others in Germany and Austria, attained a good degree of development, but little attention

¹ *Reisen im Archipel der Philippinen*, von Dr. C. SEMPER. Zweiter Theil. Wissenschaftliche Resultate. Drittü Band. Land-Mollusken. Ueber Sehorgane vom Typus der Wirbelthieraugen auf dem Rücken von Schnecken. Von Dr. C. Semper. Mit fünf Tafeln Colorirter abbildungen, Wiesbaden, 1877. 4to, pp. 46.

² *United States Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel*. Clarence King, Geologist-in-Charge. Microscopical Petrography. By FERDINAND ZIRKEL. Illustrated by twelve plates. Washington, 1876. 4to, pp.